

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 4317

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PFIP, NI, DM

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR EDWARD IHAMA

REF: COTONOU 0606 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR TO BENIN EDWARD M. IHAMA IS SOMEWHAT
PORTLY, AFFABLE, 46-YEAR OLD NIGERIAN DIPLOMAT.
HE HAS BEEN OBLIGING TO EMBASSY ON A NUMBER OF
OCCASIONS WHEN WE NEEDED HELP, BUT WAS NOT A POPULAR CHIEF OF
PROTOCOL. AFRICAN AMBASSADORS BOYCOTTED A GOING AWAY PARTY
HELD FOR HIM. IHAMA NEVER CAME TO THEIR FUNCTIONS, THEY SAID,
SO WHY SHOULD THEY COME TO HIS?

2. IHAMA SERVED THREE YEARS (1968-71) AS NUMBER TWO IN THE
NIGERIAN UN MISSION AND ENJOYED LIVING IN NEW YORK. HE SENT
HIS DAUGHTER TO A NEIGHBORHOOD CATHOLIC SCHOOL RATHER THAN
PUT UP WITH THE EXPENSE AND "HIGHFALUTIN WAYS" OF THE UN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL. EMBASSY BELIEVES IHAMA IS GOOD FRIEND
OF US AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL AGGREY.

3. IHAMA NEVER SPOKE TO EMBASSY OFFICERS ABOUT HIS POLITICAL
VIEWS, BUT HE SEEMS BASICALLY CONSERVATIVE IN TEMPERAMENT.
EASUM

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